

## ***SOMERSET COUNTY 2002 AGRICULTURAL PROFILE***

Somerset County is the southern-most county on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Only 26 percent of its 209,424 acres is classified as farmland, but agriculture is the biggest industry in the county. The seafood, timber, and small industries are also important assets to its economy. Bordered on the west by the Chesapeake Bay, the overall topography would be termed flat.

In 2000 Somerset County had a population of 24,747 which indicates a slight increase from 1990. Points of interest include historic sites, Old Princess Anne Days and Crisfield Crab Derby.

Somerset County has a very important and diverse agriculture. The corn, soybeans, broilers, vegetables, livestock, and dairy produced make it rank fourth in agriculture value among Maryland counties.

## ***SOMERSET COUNTY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS***

| <i>Crop</i>            | <i>Year</i> | <i>Unit</i>  | <i>Acreage<br/>Harvested</i> | <i>Average<br/>Yield</i> | <i>Total<br/>Production</i> |
|------------------------|-------------|--------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Corn for Grain</b>  | <b>2000</b> | <b>Bu.</b>   | 10,400                       | 176.8                    | 1,839,000                   |
|                        | <b>2001</b> |              | 11,300                       | 168.1                    | 1,900,000                   |
|                        | <b>2002</b> |              | 12,000                       | 66.7                     | 800,000                     |
| <b>Corn for Silage</b> | <b>2000</b> | <b>Tons.</b> | *                            | *                        | *                           |
|                        | <b>2001</b> |              | *                            | *                        | *                           |
|                        | <b>2002</b> |              | *                            | *                        | *                           |
| <b>Soybeans</b>        | <b>2000</b> | <b>Bu.</b>   | 25,000                       | 45.4                     | 1,135,000                   |
|                        | <b>2001</b> |              | 19,900                       | 43.0                     | 856,000                     |
|                        | <b>2002</b> |              | 18,000                       | 27.0                     | 486,000                     |
| <b>Wheat</b>           | <b>2000</b> | <b>Bu.</b>   | 4,600                        | 72.4                     | 333,000                     |
|                        | <b>2001</b> |              | 4,500                        | 64.9                     | 292,000                     |
|                        | <b>2002</b> |              | 4,400                        | 69.8                     | 307,000                     |
| <b>Hay</b>             | <b>2000</b> | <b>Tons.</b> | 1,700                        | 2.4                      | 4,000                       |
|                        | <b>2001</b> |              | 1,600                        | 2.3                      | 3,700                       |
|                        | <b>2002</b> |              | 1,100                        | 2.4                      | 2,600                       |
| <b>Barley</b>          | <b>2000</b> | <b>Bu.</b>   | *                            | *                        | *                           |
|                        | <b>2001</b> |              | *                            | *                        | *                           |
|                        | <b>2002</b> |              | *                            | *                        | *                           |

| <i>Crop Production</i>               |    |          |              | <i>Livestock Inventories</i>                     |              |
|--------------------------------------|----|----------|--------------|--|--------------|
| <i>Rank among MD. Counties, 2002</i> |    |          |              | <i>Rank among MD. Counties, 1997<sup>1</sup></i> |              |
| Corn                                 | 12 | Barley   | <sup>3</sup> | Cattle   | 20           |
| Wheat                                | 12 | Soybeans | 10           | Hogs   | 12           |
| Hay                                  | 19 |          |              | Sheep  | <sup>2</sup> |
|                                      |    |          |              | Milk Cows  | <sup>3</sup> |

# ***SOMERSET COUNTY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS***

| <i>Farm Number &amp; Size</i> <sup>1</sup>      |                         | 1987                             | 1992             | 1997                           |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Number of Farms                                 |                         | 406                              | 345              | 288                            |
| Average Size                                    | (acres)                 | 158                              | 161              | 190                            |
| Land in Farms                                   | (acres)                 | 64,305                           | 55,657           | 54,823                         |
| <i>Livestock (Number on Farms)</i> <sup>1</sup> |                         |                                  |                  |                                |
| Cattle Inventory                                |                         | 2,066                            | 2,276            | 1,916                          |
| Hog Inventory                                   |                         | 14,273                           | 7,222            | 2,080                          |
| Sheep Inventory                                 |                         | 181                              | 2                | 2                              |
| <i>Value of Sales</i> <sup>1</sup>              |                         |                                  | <i>(\$1,000)</i> |                                |
| All Products                                    |                         | 80,893                           | 102,881          | 96,532                         |
| Crops   |                         | 8,196                            | 12,140           | 13,002                         |
| Livestock, Poultry, and Poultry Products        |                         | 72,697                           | 90,741           | 83,530                         |
|   |                         |                                  |                  |                                |
| <i>Equine, 2002</i>                             |                         |                                  |                  |                                |
| <i>Equine Inventory</i>                         |                         | <i>Value of Equine Inventory</i> |                  | <i>Number of Equine Places</i> |
|   |                         | <i>1,000 dollars</i>             |                  |                                |
| 280   |                         | 800                              |                  | 80                             |
| Cash Rents                                      |                         |                                  |                  |                                |
|   |                         | 2000                             | 2001             | 2002                           |
| Cropland  | <i>dollars per acre</i> | 60.88                            | 62.18            | 66.85                          |

<sup>1</sup> Source: Census of Agriculture, NASS.

<sup>2</sup> Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>3</sup> Unranked - Data not published.

<sup>4</sup> Revised.

\* Acreage too small to publish.